

What is claimed is:

1. A security tag assembly structured to discourage the unauthorized removal of merchandise from a given area, said security tag comprising:

a) a housing including separable portions removably connected to one another in an operative position,

b) a connector member secured to an interior of said housing and structured to connect the merchandise to said housing,

c) a locking assembly removably securable to said connector member and cooperatively structured therewith to secure said separable portions of said housing in said operative position, and

d) an indicator assembly comprising a plurality of indicator structures disposed in generally surrounding relation to said connector member and structured to be engaged and thereafter indicate tampering upon attempted unauthorized perimeter access to said connector member.

2. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 1 further comprising a shield assembly formed of a heat resistant material and disposed within said housing in at least partially enclosing relation to said locking assembly.

3. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said shield assembly is disposed and configured to restrict access to said locking assembly through an exterior of said housing.

- 1     4.   A security tag assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said  
2           locking assembly is at least partially mounted on one of said  
3           separable portions of said housing.
- 4     5.   A security tag assembly as recited in claim 4 wherein said  
5           connector member is attached to a different one of said  
6           separable portions of said housing relative to said locking  
7           assembly.
- 8     6.   A security tag assembly as recited in claim 5 wherein an  
9           interior surface of said separable portion that includes said  
10          locking assembly is structured to extend into an at least  
11          partially open interior of said separable portion that  
12          includes said connector member so as to prevent perpendicular  
13          access to said connector member.
- 14    7.   A security tag assembly as recited in claim 6 wherein said  
15          interior surface is sloped to direct an article inserted  
16          between said separable portions at said perimeters thereof  
17          towards said indicator structures.
- 18    8.   A security tag assembly as recited in claim 7 wherein said  
19          interior surface is at least partially defined by a mounting  
20          retainer structured to position said indicator structures
- 21    9.   A security tag assembly as recited in claim 8 wherein said  
22          indicator structure comprises a breakable ink ampule  
23          containing a releasable staining agent.
- 24    10.   A security tag assembly as recited in claim 1 wherein said  
25          indicator structures comprise three breakable ink ampules,

1 each containing a releasable staining agent and disposed in  
2 generally surrounding relation to said connector member.

3 11. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 10 wherein an  
4 interior surface of said separable portion that includes said  
5 ink ampules is sloped so as to direct an article inserted  
6 between said separable portions at perimeters thereof into  
7 breaking engagement with at least one of said ink ampules.

8 12. A security tag assembly structured to discourage the  
9 unauthorized removal of merchandise from a given area, said  
10 security tag comprising:

11 a) a housing including separable portions removably  
12 connected to one another in an operative position,

13 b) a connector member secured to an interior of said housing  
14 and structured to connect the merchandise to said  
15 housing,

16 c) a locking assembly removably securable to said connector  
17 member and cooperatively structured therewith to secure  
18 said separable portions of said housing in said operative  
19 position,

20 d) an indicator assembly comprising a plurality of indicator  
21 structures disposed in one of said separable portions,  
22 and

23 e) an interior surface of said separable portion containing  
24 said indicator structures being structured to direct an  
25 article inserted between said separable portions into

1           indicating engagement with at least one of said indicator  
2           structured.

3    13. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 12 wherein said  
4       interior surface is sloped towards said connector member.

5    14. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 13 wherein said  
6       indicator structures comprise breakable ink ampules.

7    15. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 14 wherein said  
8       interior surface is sloped upwardly relative to said separable  
9       portion containing said indicator structures so as to recess  
10      into an interior of an opposite one of said separable  
11      portions.

12   16. A security tag assembly structured to discourage the  
13      unauthorized removal of merchandise from a given area, said  
14      security tag comprising:

15      a) a housing including separable portions removably  
16          connected to one another in an operative position,

17      b) a connector member secured to an interior of said housing  
18          and structured to connect the merchandise to said  
19          housing,

20      c) a locking assembly removably securable to said connector  
21          member and cooperatively structured therewith to secure  
22          said separable portions of said housing in said operative  
23          position;

24      d) an indicator assembly comprising a plurality of breakable  
25          ink ampules, and

1 e) a mounting retainer disposed in one of said separable  
2 portions and structured to retain said ink ampules said  
3 connector member and a perimeter of said separable  
4 portions such that an article disposed between said  
5 separable portions towards said connector member at a  
6 radial location of one of said ink ampules will engage  
7 said ink ampule.

8 17. A security tag assembly as recited in claim 16 wherein said  
9 ink ampules are disposed in a generally triangular orientation  
10 so as to generally surround said connector member.

11 18. A security tag assembly structured to discourage the  
12 unauthorized removal of merchandise from a given area, said  
13 security tag comprising:

14 a) a housing including separable portions removably  
15 connected to one another in an operative position,

16 b) a connector member secured to an interior of said housing  
17 and structured to connect the merchandise to said  
18 housing,

19 c) a locking assembly removably securable to said connector  
20 member and cooperatively structured therewith to secure  
21 said separable portions of said housing in said operative  
22 position, and

23 d) an interior surface of one of said separable portions  
24 structured to protrude from said separable portion so as  
25 to extend into an interior of an opposite one of said

1           separable portions and restrict perpendicular access to  
2           said connector member by an article inserted between said  
3           separable portions.